

# W5YI

Nation's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

## REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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November 15, 1992

## ARRL Applies to Issue Club, Military Amateur Call Signs

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Section 4(g) of the *Communications Act of 1934* (47 U.S.C. 154(g)) has been amended by adding a new paragraph 3. There are four segments (A, B, C and D) to this paragraph. Three of them deal with the acceptance of gifts, bequests, and donations (including voluntary and uncompensated services) by the Commission. Section 3(B) deals with special club and military call signs. It reads:

***"The Commission, for purposes of providing radio club and military-recreational call signs, may utilize the voluntary, uncompensated and unreimbursed services of amateur radio organizations authorized by the Commission that have tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986."***

On October 23rd, Private Radio Bureau Chief Ralph Haller was hand-delivered a letter from the American Radio Relay League seeking to implement the new legislation. The ARRL has requested that they be designated as the sole administrator of club and military recreation call signs. "This letter, if acceptable to you, will constitute a letter of intent, to be formalized at a later date into a final agreement, thus to allow the League to commit its resources and commence necessary preparation to become the exclusive club and military recreation call sign administrator."

"The League's plan for call sign administration for club and military recreation stations, which the

League suggests will minimize the work of the Commission, is as follows: Applicants (i.e. trustees duly authorized by the club to hold the license for a fixed term for the club, which is the licensee) would complete FCC Form 610-B, and mail it to the League for processing. The League would review the application to determine the eligibility of the club, determine the proper call sign on a sequential basis from a dedicated block of call signs, such as 'WC#BAA through WC#ZZZ' or similar, and prepare the Form 660 with the call sign.

"These would then be forwarded to the Commission's Gettysburg office for endorsement and mailing to the applicant. The League would also forward to the Commission a data file on each station in a Commission-specified format, with data concerning the licensee. Renewal and modification applications would be handled in the same manner as new applications if the Commission so desires, except that club and military recreation station call signs already issued would be preserved if the club wishes to retain the call sign.

"If the club wishes a new call sign from the dedicated block, it would be allowed to exchange call signs at the time of renewal or modification. Military recreation station call signs and applications would be handled in the same way as club station applications, and the call signs would be issued from the same block.

"The original application and relevant records

would be kept by the League at its Headquarters for a reasonable time, should any question arise concerning a particular club or military recreation station; these would be available as the Commission may direct, for enforcement purposes. The League will continue the project on a regular basis, and will process applications timely, impartially and in the order that they have been received. There would be no financial obligation to any applicant whatsoever, and no monetary transactions would be involved.

"Though the League has in the past asserted, and continues to believe, that the criteria for determining eligibility for a club license should be modified, that is not an inherent element of the League's desire to provide the volunteer services set forth herein. It is the League's current plan to seek more appropriate eligibility criteria in the near future. The rule changes necessary to implement this program, however, would be non-substantive, and can be done by Order, rather than through notice-and-comment rule making. Sections 1.912 and 97.5 would have to be amended to specify the filing procedure for club and military recreation station applications on Form 610-B, and to clarify that new club and military recreation station licenses are to be issued once again.

"The League's proposal will eliminate work for the Commission's Gettysburg staff, and at the same time provide for the resumption of club and military recreation station licenses with identifiable call signs. The League is capable of providing this service in a fair, efficient and equitable manner. The task is inherently one that should be done by one entity; the League estimates that the number of new club and military recreation station applications would, during the first year of this program, number approximately 2000, and a few hundred in the years thereafter. The League's proposal is thus based on designation of the League as the exclusive club and military recreation station call sign administrator.

"As mentioned above, your signature on a copy of this letter of intent will indicate your acceptance of the plan set forth herein in principle. It is intended to give the League the necessary degree of assurance that the program will be implemented, so as to permit the necessary commitment of funds and resources to prepare for the implementation of the project. We would propose that the project be initiated on or before January 1, 1993. Upon your acceptance of the plan, we would propose to work with your staff to establish a final agreement setting forth the details of the program and the League's obligations. Signed: George S. Wilson, III (W4OYI, ARRL President.)"

The Letter of Intent has not yet been agreed to by the Federal Communications Commission.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS AND IARN AT ODDS

The following message has been "making the rounds" on Amateur Radio bulletin boards. The originator is **Mike Riley, KX1B**, who is in charge of Disaster Communications for the American Red Cross at its National Headquarters in Washington, DC. I don't know who Ray Green is, but this was picked up off of the Pipeline BBS in Glasgow, Kentucky.

**Msg No: 901. Mon 10-19-92 14:11**

**From: Ray Green To: All**

**Subject: The Red Cross and Disasters**

"It's a damn shame that two or three well-meaning people were recruited by an unrecognized group as Red Cross radio communication volunteers on Kauai following Hurricane Iniki. These hams were misdirected at their personal expense without the knowledge or approval of the American Red Cross. Such incidents should never happen again.

"As the manager of American Red Cross disaster radio and satellite communications nationwide, a consultant to the International Red Cross, and the Red Cross Communications Officer on Kauai for three weeks following Hurricane Iniki, I'd like to offer the following information to your readers for future reference:

- (1.) During large-scale disasters, such as Hurricane Hugo, Andrew or Iniki, only Red Cross National Headquarters can authorize the deployment of radio amateurs. There are no exceptions to this procedure.
- (2.) Hams deployed to disaster sites as unauthorized Red Cross volunteers can expect no support from the Red Cross, period.
- (3.) In the aftermath of international disasters, American Red Cross National Headquarters deploys U.S. Citizens as International Red Cross volunteers. Those who circumvent this established system, again, should expect no support upon arrival on-site.

These procedures are in place for many reasons. The most important being the effective management of a critical resource in the midst of a large-scale disaster. Walk-ins from outside the effected area are generally no welcome as they can easily become a burden to an already-taxed support system. If the American Red Cross doesn't officially invite you to attend, you may want to think twice before grabbing your suitcase.

I trust the above clears up any misperceptions regarding the utilization of Amateur Radio by the American Red Cross during massive disasters. Finally, more than 60 outstanding radio amateurs assisted the Red Cross in the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki which

demolished Kauai. Hams were considered experts in the many communication systems used by the Red Cross: An 800 MHz trunked network, A commercial UHF network, Amateur Radio (HF and VHF), Citizen's Band radio, cellular telephones, and two Inmarsat A satellite terminals. Each and every ham involved was, and is, appreciated for their resourcefulness and dedication. No doubt about it, we had a world-class team of hams responding to Hurricane Iniki. 73, (Signed: Michael R. Riley, KX1B)

- **Ron Earl, W6TXK** of San Diego wrote us about an amateur who was in between jobs and had some extra money. It seems N6GZI, Ed had been talking to Hawaii on a 40 meter net after the storm hit Kauai. N6GZI was invited by **Glen Baxter, K1MAN**, manager of the International Amateur Radio Network to accompany other amateurs IARN was sending to Hawaii to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki. Ed agreed to go and paid for the plane fare himself. A FAX letter IARN sent N6GZI indicated that the operation had been cleared with Senator Innoue's office in Hawaii. N6GZI gathered up five pallets of donations (rolls of coax, wire, connectors and so forth) and equipment loaned from Yaesu. When Ed got to Hawaii, he telephoned various people mentioned in the letter - including Senator Innoue's office. He alleges that the senator's office knew nothing about anyone being sent to help out. Other emergency agencies said that they didn't ask for or need any help. N6GZI returned home the next day.

- I contacted Glen Baxter, K1MAN and he said the International Amateur Radio Network by September 21st, 1992, had 8 people on the island of Kauai. "We started sending jump team operators to the disaster zone immediately. Mike Riley, who is the chief communications officer at Red Cross was formally Dave Sumner's (ARRL Executive VP) right-hand man at ARRL. There is a tremendous amount of professional jealousy between KX1B and IARN. We do as amateurs what he is supposed to do as a professional. He also interfered with some of our operations on St. Croix during Hurricane Hugo. We sent a number of radio operators to Kauai and 3 of them were intercepted by Riley and he managed to send them back after all three of them went there at their own expense - and with my authorization. In the beginning we were working with the Wilcox Hospital and Senator Innoue's office. Riley was in Honolulu and asked N6GZI and two others to return to San Diego which they did. N6GZI was unable talk to the staff person I was working with in the Senator's office because she was then enroute to Hawaii and would not be back for two days."

- Tony Smith, G4FAI, has come up with *another version of the origin of the term "ham."* A magazine from the early 1900's entitled *Home Amateur Mechanic* published details on how to build the *Home Amateur Mechanic* radio. Thus those who built and used those sets became known as HAM radio operators.

He also mentions that the while the U.S. went "No-Code" in 1991, the United Kingdom went "Novice." As of March 1992, there are 33,280 Class "A" (Code) amateurs and 27,738 Class "B" (No Code) amateurs and 46 "A" Novices and 378 "B" Novices in the U.K - a gain of 568. (There are also 64,944 licensed CBers.)

- The FCC has issued a public notice reminding broadcasters of their obligations to *protect workers from excessive radio frequency radiation (RFR) at commercial antenna sites.* The existing rules even prohibit engineers and tower climbers who are willing to be overexposed from working in areas that exceed RFR limits. Stations found to be in non-compliance face penalties from the FCC, OSHA, the EPA and in some cases city and state regulators.

- Did you know that almost half the traffic carried on America's phone systems is digital data such as faxes, computerized messages and images? A recent Washington Post article entitled *"Getting the Lead Out of Copper"* tells how copper phone lines can accommodate huge volumes of data faster by implanting computer chips and other high-tech gear in user's phones and at the phone company. They turn old copper "dirt road" wiring into the equivalent of six-lane highways. Upgrading to ISDN (an acronym for the *Integrated Services Digital Network*) increases the capacity of traditional copper telephone wire, making improved video and data capabilities possible.

Nobody is suggesting that ISDN is a permanent alternative to fiber-optic cable, which experts call the equivalent of a 300-lane information highway. But a fiber-optic system is 40 years (and \$400 billion) away and the nation can't wait that long. An ISDN equipped system will make available about 80% of what a fiber-optic network could achieve at 10% of the price. And ISDN can be ready in about 10 years.

ISDN converts analog signals to digital. A faxed page takes 20 seconds over copper wires, only 2 seconds with ISDN. Computer data transmitted over copper phone is likely to contain noise errors. Using an ISDN line, it would be ten times faster, with no errors and a modem wouldn't be needed at all. Prodigy, the rather slow information service, tested ISDN and found it dramatically faster with greatly improved customer satisfaction. This month, the telephone industry will unveil new ISDN gear called the "Golden Splice."

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● **Interesting VHF/UHF scanner frequencies!** 35.02 MHz McDonald's order window, 46.61-46.67 Cordless phones (and yes, unlike cellular phones, they are legal to listen to!), 47.42 Red Cross, 143.625 Russian Mir cosmonauts, 155.34 hospital/ambulance, 167.375 Secret Service, 167.50 FCC, 167.5625 FBI, 259.70 Space Shuttle, 415.70 Air Force One, 469.5 NASCAR racing.

● A rather weird article in *Radio Communication Report*, a wireless industry trade publication, tells of a **request by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to change the nation's telecommunications networks to accommodate wiretapping.** The FBI can tap analog communications "...but it has been aware since 1986 that it could lose its edge in wiretapping due to deployment of technologies such as cellular and the introduction of satellite-based and personal communications services or PCS. ...Under the FBI's plan, electronic communications service providers would be required to modify their equipment to accommodate wiretapping." The GAO (the investigative arm of Congress) said the FBI proposal did not define the bureau's wiretapping needs and they want specifics!

● The FCC, Dept. of State and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) have finalized an agreement with the Mexican Secretariat of Communications and Transportation for **operating 220-222 MHz Land Mobile radio stations along their common border.** The U.S. and Canada will each gain access to 97 primary channels within 120 kilometers of the border. Channels allocated for primary Mexican use may be assigned to U.S. licensees on a secondary non-interference basis. The 220-222 MHz band was reallocated from shared amateur to

narrow band business use in August 1988.

● **"PSE QSL! - An Expert's Guide to Amateur Radio QSL'ing"** is a new book by **Bill Welsh, W6DDB** - editor of CQ Magazine's "Bill's Basics." It is the first and only book devoted entirely to the subject of QSLing - all the ins and outs, all the tips and techniques, the often overlooked aspects that can mean all the difference in getting that QSL!

Cost is \$9.95 plus \$2.00 shipping. (Orders to: 45527 3rd St. East, Lancaster, CA 93535)

● **Talk to the Astronauts!** Three space shuttle missions are scheduled for Spring 1993 with amateur radio operators aboard! The Oct. 15th issue of *OSCAR Satellite Report* points out that the **next SAREX shuttle flight is STS-55** planned for February 1993. (SAREX is the NASA/ARRL sponsored *Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment*.) U.S. astronauts **Steve Nagel, N5RAW**, and **Jerry Ross, N5SCW**, will operate 2 meter FM voice and packet. STS-56 in mid-March has **Ken Cameron, N5AWP**, **Ken Cockrell, KB5UAH**, **Mike Foale, KB5UAC** and **Ellen Ochoa, KB5TZZ** aboard.

They will operate slow and fast-scan TV in addition to voice and packet. STS-57 (late April) is also scheduled to be a SAREX mission.

● **Intel Corporation is in the process of unveiling a new brand name for its PC microprocessors.** They have found out that a number can't be trademarked and at least two other computer chip makers (Cyrix and Advanced Micro Devices) are not only cloning their 486 chips, but have also named them "486". By trademarking a non-numerical name for its next chip, Intel hopes buyers will seek out the new chip by name. Meanwhile, Intel is continuing its "Intel Inside" advertising campaign.

● **Personal computers are everywhere now!** Look for (S. Korean owned) **Hyundai Electronics America** to begin a multi-million dollar advertising campaign for its "Made-in-the-USA" personal computers. Their PCs will be manufactured in their California (silicon valley) factory under the direction of 27-year IBM veteran, Edward Thomas.

● The FCC has issued a whopping **\$105,000 fine against the Howard Stern Show** for alleged indecency during radio shows aired in 1991. Stern says the FCC is trying to put a stop to his career and that the Commission's indecency rules are unclear. The Stern radio show is heard in New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Dallas, Cleveland and Albany, NY.

● **FCC Chairman, Alfred Sikes is recovering from successful surgery** to remove a small malignant prostate tumor. Sikes is expected to be replaced as FCC Chairman by the Clinton administration. Sikes said that the Democrats have a tendency to be "more regulatory" which could overwhelm the FCC which already has to do more with less resources. Congress has promised, however, to work with their Appropriations Committee to make sure that the FCC has enough funding to implement the new cable law. The FCC said it could cost up to \$50 million a year to regulate cable rates.

● In our last issue we mentioned **Howard Weinstein, K3HW**, of Marlton, NJ and his half-hour short-wave **"Radio Techniques"** ham radio oriented broadcast. We neglected to say, however, that the show airs every Sunday at 2300 UTC (6 p.m. EST) on 15.690 MHz, with a repeat on Tuesday at 0700 UTC (2 a.m. EST) on 7.435 MHz. Howard's co-host is **Bill Quinn, KA2VUE** from Cherry Hill, NJ.

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## SEPTEMBER AMATEUR LICENSING STATISTICS

September	1989	1990	1991	1992
New Amateurs:				
New Novices	1160	1382	679	617
New Tech's	158	128	1680	2069
New Other	41	41	48	46
Total New:	1359	1552	2407	2732
Upgrading:	(* Except Tech upgrades to Tech Plus)			
Novices	1171	611	642	562
Technicians	416	284	(*) 443	(*) 517
Generals	314	214	286	332
Advanced	233	119	206	241
Total:	2134	1228	1577	1652

### Renewals:

Total Renew:	167	65	47	69
Novices	21	8	1	5

### Purged:

Total Dropped:	1162	1495	15	37
Novices	512	771	6	20

### Census:

Indiv. Oper.	464800	493292	532072	580806
Change/Year	+27972	+28492	+38780	+48734

### Individual Operators by Class: (and % of total)

Extra	Advan.	General	Technic.	Novice	Total:
September 1989					

49545	101514	116496	112631	84614	464800
10.7%	21.8%	25.1%	24.2%	18.2%	100.0%

### September 1990

52847	104365	119158	125217	91705	493292
10.7%	21.2%	24.2%	25.4%	18.5%	100.0%

### September 1991

56487	107127	121971	150069	96418	532072
10.6%	20.1%	23.0%	28.2%	18.1%	100.0%

### September 1992

60646	109537	124727	187281	98569	580806
10.4%	18.9%	21.5%	32.2%	17.0%	100.0%

### Club/

RACES &	(1989)	(1990)	(1991)	(1992)
Military:	2505	2438	2431	2431

Total Active:	467305	495470	534503	583237
% Increase	+6.4%	+6.0%	+7.9%	+9.0%

## NUMBER OF AMATEURS BY CALL SIGN GROUP:

Group	Extra	Advan.	General	Technic.	Novice	Total
A	34725	684	249	7	0	35665
B	3668	28331	54	6	1	32060
C	13954	43769	67091	84645	49	209508
D	8099	36635	57227	102560	98517	303038
Other	246	118	106	63	2	535
Total	60692	109537	124727	187281	98569	580806

[Group "A"=2X1 & 2X2; "B"=2X2; "C"=1X3 "D"=2X3 format.]

[Source: FCC Licensing Facility, Gettysburg, PA]

## AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE CONTINUES TO GROW!

The public is entering the Amateur Service at a rate that is more than double that of just three years ago! That's the bottom line of (fiscal) year-ending statistics released by the FCC's licensing facility in Gettysburg. The big increase, of course, is due to individuals being able to obtain a Technician class ham ticket without first learning the Morse code.

Here are the figures for fiscal year 1985 through 1992. Remember that the government year ends on September 30. Keep in mind that the Codeless Technician class license has only been available to the public since the last half of the 1991 fiscal year.

The (Fiscal 1992) 27.7% increase in the number of newcomers to Amateur Radio is on top of last year's 46.8%.

License Class	First Time Amateur Radio Service Licensees							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Nov	15913	19147	22319	18550	20047	22979	19922	12305
Tech	851	1163	1452	2117	2498	2617	17790	35914
Other	609	669	567	413	520	538	651	765
Total	17373	20979	24338	21080	23065	26134	38363	48984
% Inc.	-7.6	+20.8	+16.0	-13.4	+9.4	+13.3	+46.8	+27.7

The number of licensees upgrading their existing operator license continues at an all time high! The number of Technicians upgrading (\* = shown below) does not include Codeless Techs who upgraded to Tech Plus by passing a telegraphy examination. The Commission does not keep the Tech Plus database which is maintained by the VEC's. "Technicians upgrading" only includes those who upgraded to the General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class.

From Class	Amateur Radio Service Licensees Upgrading							
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Nov	10422	11151	13365	14525	15198	16417	15326	10070
Tech	3833	3861	3687	4780	5017	6092	*7448	*8046
Gen	3829	4358	4007	4019	3835	4343	4834	5010
Advan	2214	2858	2755	3018	2739	2847	3217	3670
Total	20298	22228	23814	26342	26789	29699	30825	26796
% Inc.	+25.4	+9.5	+7.1	+10.6	+1.7	+10.9	*+3.8	*-13.1

It is also interesting to note the number (and the peak months) that newcomers enter the hobby. Figures for the past eight years follow:

Fiscal Year:	First Time Amateur Licensees by Month						
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
FY-1985	961	1281	1552	1343	1242	2001	
FY-1986	1356	910	2385	1477	1805	1606	
FY-1987	874	1404	1826	2248	1889	795	
FY-1988	882	1131	2582	1189	1624	2733	
FY-1989	923	1769	2144	2234	1274	2147	

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Year:	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
FY-1990	1811	1244	2170	2671	1941	2727
FY-1991	1826	1746	3259	1816	2162	2656
FY-1992	4501	2687	3940	4030	4092	4806

Fiscal Year	First Time Amateur Licensees by Month						Total
	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	
FY-1985	2043	2174	1186	1431	1297	862	17373
FY-1986	2767	958	2028	2806	1377	1504	20979
FY-1987	2950	6797	1850	870	918	1917	24338
FY-1988	2195	3002	1494	1842	1347	1059	21080
FY-1989	2821	3302	2003	1601	1488	1359	23065
FY-1990	2658	4284	1984	2003	1089	1552	26134
FY-1991	5749	4714	3231	4676	4121	2407	38363
FY-1992	5215	4178	5957	3843	3003	2732	48984

## Ham Census - Ten Most Populated States

FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY
1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
(1.) California							
59960	58400	59944	61432	66130	71895	79031	87304
(2.) Florida							
24518	25476	26242	27094	28856	30755	33128	35991
(3.) Texas							
24408	24930	25495	25992	27750	29261	31699	34487
(4.) New York							
25833	26030	26001	25505	26878	28202	30073	32472
(5.) Ohio							
20276	20370	20783	21010	22179	23317	24944	27002
(6.) Pennsylvania							
17153	17309	17525	17531	18439	19391	20584	22159
(7.) Illinois							
17384	17446	17548	17509	18286	19070	20183	21567
(8.) Washington							
12600	12997	13436	14016	15034	16046	17492	19185
(9.) Michigan							
14212	14158	14259	14258	15052	15670	16690	18091
(10.) New Jersey							
12924	12910	12932	12823	13482	14068	14835	15869

The top ten states account for more than half of the U.S. amateur population (54.1%).

## The ten states with the fewest amateurs are:

Delaware 1,304, Wyoming 1,311, South Dakota 1,360, North Dakota 1,377, Vermont 1,644, Montana 2,210, Rhode Island 2,248, Alaska 2,588, Idaho 2,800 and Hawaii 2,896

## Amateur Census Since 1984 by License Class:

F.Y.	Extra	Advan.	Gen.	Tech.	Novice	Total
1984	35624	97084	116804	79950	80461	409923
1985	37968	97825	117340	83117	76337	412587
1986	40768	98195	116864	86148	79107	421082
1987	43214	98147	114424	91633	82779	430201
1988	46152	98354	112989	99603	79667	436828
1989	49545	101514	116496	112631	84614	464800
1990	52847	105365	119158	125217	91705	493292
1991	56487	107127	121971	150069	96418	532072
1992	60692	109537	124727	187281	98569	580806

## FCC ANNOUNCES 1993 MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT FEE FOR AN AMATEUR OPERATOR EXAMINATION

The FCC announced today that effective January 1, 1993, the maximum allowable reimbursement (testing) fee for an amateur license examination will be \$5.60. This amount is based upon a 3.0% increase in the Department of Labor Consumer Price Index between September 1991 and September 1992.

Volunteer Examiners (VEs) and volunteer-examiner co-ordinators (VECs) may charge examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or co-ordinating examinations for Technician, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra Class operator licenses.

The amount of any such reimbursement fee from any examinee for any one examination session, regardless of the number of elements administered, must not exceed the maximum allowable fee. Where the VEs and the VEC both desire reimbursement, they jointly decide upon a fair distribution of the fee.

No fee is allowed to be charged for the Novice Class Operator license examination.

This announcement is made pursuant to Section 97.527 of the Commission's Rules 47 CFR §97.526. (FCC Public Notice released Oct. 30, 1992, Washington, DC.)

- Both the **ARRL and W5YI-VEC organizations will be charging the maximum amount (\$5.60)** during 1993. The FCC has proposed folding the separate Novice program into the VEC System. The public comment period closed on Oct. 9; reply comments on Nov. 9.

- The FCC has sent out a **Public Notice alerting the public to the Maritime Service license requirements.** Vessels and coast stations operating on marine frequencies without a license are subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 and one year in prison. "Recent Commission studies indicate a large number of unlicensed marine stations. We are very concerned with this increase in unlicensed activity in a safety service such as the Maritime Radio Service," the FCC said. "...the Commission, with the assistance of the United Coast Guard, intends to strictly enforce the Maritime Service Rules as of the start of the 1993 boating season."

Mail a completed FCC Form 506 together with a check or money order for \$35 (payable to the Federal Communications Commission to: FCC, Marine Ship Service, P.O. Box 358275, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5275 to obtain a ship station license. Use FCC Form 503 to apply for a coast (land) station license. Cost is \$70 to the same firm, but send to P.O. Box 358265, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5265. (Blank forms are available by telephoning: 202/632-3676.)

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## WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN GERMANY ...AND WHY!

We mentioned in our October 1s issue that a major upheaval was taking place in German amateur radio circles. A lot has been written and said about the German situation - much of it over-the-air. And much of it conflicting. It was reliably reported to us that the Deutsche Bundespost (German telecommunications regulatory agency) had proposed new regulations for radio amateurs. Basically the new rules were to completely deregulate ham radio. Our investigation reveals, however, that they were merely trying to get their national ham association to accept some of the costs and workload involved in administering Amateur Radio in Germany.

Here are some excerpts of the original BAPT (German Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications) Amateur Radio regulations that supposedly were to go into effect on January 1, 1993. German amateurs called them "...outrageous" and were quite angry (and vocal.)

### Draft of new proposed regulations:

- New monthly cost of holding an amateur license: 16 Deutsche Marks (DM), approximately \$10.00. (It is currently 3 DM, about \$2 per month.)
- Cost of taking the test for a Type 1 license: 190 DM, approximately \$140.00; for a Type 2 license: 170 DM, approx. \$120.00
- Cost of issuing a license: 20 DM, approx. \$14.00
- Cost of issuing a special license: 100 DM approx. \$65.00

Amateur radio transmissions shall be restricted to have only the following contents:

- (1.) Messages concerning the equipment and the technical characteristics of one's station.
- (2.) Messages directly concerning the operations on amateur radio.
- (3.) Messages concerning the amateur radio good will as well as schooling for radio amateurs.
- (4.) Messages concerning general electro-technical and radio information transmission techniques.
- (5.) Short messages concerning the situation in the operator's immediate surrounding (i.e. weather, family, health, etc.)
- (6.) Data concerning programs used in conjunction with amateur radio.
- (7.) The messages sent by amateur radio stations may not contain any political ideas whatsoever.

### Operating Regulations

- It is also not permitted to transmit traffic concerning third parties or sent S.O.S. or Maydays nor which

are against other regulations or interrupt security. [Public service communications are prohibited]

- Every amateur radio operator must execute his transmissions so as to have the least amount of interference on other amateurs.
- An amateur radio license may be recalled by the BAPT if it feels necessary.
- The BAPT may also require a licensed radio amateur to retake the test if it determines it necessary.
- Before a amateur radio operator begins a transmission, he must make sure that the frequency he has selected is not in use. He may not break previously begun transmissions.
- An amateur radio operator must be sure before contacting a calling station that the operator of the station presently has a valid amateur radio license. [Editor's note: We wonder how you accomplish this requirement.]
- An amateur radio operator also must be sure the call sign being used by that station is typical of the type of call sign issued in that country.
- Amateur radio stations can only be connected to phone lines through a modem, not directly. [In other words, packet computer-to-computer radio is legal, phone patches are not.]

There are no specific subbands. Any mode may be used on any amateur frequency. The new regulations were scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 1993. Many amateurs said the new rules would result in complete chaos on the ham bands.

### German Ham Club Officials Resign

About a week ago we got another report that the membership of the DARC (Deutsche Amateur Radio Club, the official German representative to the International Amateur Radio Union) had denounced and effectively fired their management team because of their handling of the German ham band deregulation.

On October 30, DARC's *Hans Berg, DJ6TJ* sent out a two page new bulletin to German amateurs detailing the events that took place at a ham convention on October 24 and 25. Hans is Chairman of both the DARC International Affairs and the IARU Region 1 HF Committees.

Besides other routine amateur news, the bulletin told how the DARC Board censured their three-person management and issued a "...request for withdrawal" - in other words, asked for their resignations. Here is a capsule version of the DARC's **"Germany Announcement No. 38/92"** - Released for broadcast effective October 30, 1992."

## \*DARC DIRECTORSHIP ANNOUNCES WITHDRAWAL

The DARC directorship (Board of Directors) withdrew its leadership, October 24 1992 during the fall conference of the amateurs (members) in Oberhof/-Thuringen. This was in response to a request by the majority of the members. It is the opinion of the members that the current leadership is no longer capable of handling the timely and fiscal responsibilities which these positions demand. The members authorized Dr. Horst Ellgering, DL9MH; Prof. Dr. Jodi Elbers, DJ3XV and Rolf Kadau DJ7CH with the immediate responsibilities of representation."

The bulletin goes on to say that these temporary replacements are authorized to conduct "non-deferrable" business until a special membership election selects new leadership. The Board also appointed Konrad Krecher, DL4BZ, director of Noordsee, to oversee the transition. He ordered a December 13, 1992 election to be held at the next conference in Oberhos.

We telephoned Hans Berg/DJ6TJ at his home in Luebeck, Germany, last week in an attempt to get the straight story and to determine exactly what had happened. Here is a slightly edited transcript of the conversation.

## INTERVIEW WITH HANS BERG, DJ6TJ

**W5YI:** Hans, can you tell me what the proposals are from the German Bundespost?

**DJ6TJ:** There are no proposals. The German Bundespost believes that they are doing too much service [spending too much money] for ham radio and they are not getting paid for that [costs are excessive.] Germany has an amateur radio law which is different from any other country. The Bundespost is not happy with that but there is no chance to change the law. New amateur radio rules are under discussion right now. My impression is that there will not be a very big change. The rules will stay more or less as they are.

Basically the Bundespost is trying to get rid of all the services that they provide for Amateur Radio or to get paid [for providing them]. They have proposed to discontinue publishing the call sign book, to make the examinations for Amateur Radio ...and so on. In the future, that will be a job for the Society (the DARC, German Amateur Radio Club.) A lot of things which cost a lot of money for the Bundespost will have to be done by our Society.

What might happen is that the license fee might become more than it is now. In the moment it is now three marks (about \$2) per month we are paying for our license. We are used to be paying for that since

the beginning. It might go higher. That might be the result of the discussions which are now underway.

**W5YI:** Why did the Bundespost want to change the rules?

**DJ6TJ:** More or less to get rid of the work and let the Amateur Radio Society do this job. To reduce costs ...to save from having to pay people for that. [i.e. to privatize some of their administrative functions.]

**W5YI:** We heard that all ham bands would be deregulated and that there would be basically no Amateur Radio rules in Germany.

**DJ6TJ:** That was the first proposal which they said with a smiling eye [in other words, they did not really mean it] ...because they know in this moment that the Society would have to act as fast as possible and that is what they want us to do. [The new rules were basically to motivate the DARC to accept increased responsibility for administering Amateur Radio in Germany. If they didn't, then the chaos that resulted would be their fault.]

For example, they said what you do inside the ham bands is your problem and not ours. That was the first step. Without any regulations at all you are buying your call sign and you may do whatever you want. They are selling the call sign. For example for your call sign, if you want to have two or three or four - it is up to you. One call sign, let us say, is costing \$200 a year and what you are doing inside the ham band is up to you ...whether you use 1000 watts or 10 kilowatts, it is up to you. Do what you want? That is what they are saying at the Bundespost several months ago.

**W5YI:** Isn't that supposed to go into effect after December.

**DJ6TJ:** Yes, but it will never happen. It was merely a step by the Bundespost to force the Society to pay for things or do the things by themselves. The DARC is willing to do so.

**W5YI:** I understand that there are a lot of problems within the Society with officials resigning.

**DJ6TJ:** The Chairman of our Society [Guenther Matz, DJ8BN] was asked to resign because the members of the Board of Directors had the feeling that they have not been informed and been told enough as far as the deregulation and some other matters are concerned. Our officials consist of three persons. A Chairman and two Vice Chairmen. [Hellmuth Schmuecker, DK5ML and Karlheinz Vennekohl, DK5OD are the Vice Chairmen.] Both have been forced to step back [resign].

In my view, a big mistake of DJ8BN was to try to

do everything by himself. It is impossible to run a 70,000 member society by one person. Things have to be delegated, and that was something he was not able to do.

**W5YI:** Why did the Board ask for the resignations?

**DJ6TJ:** The impression of the Board of Directors was that they were not kept adequately advised. They have not been good enough informed. And that was indeed true. Deregulation was more or less a surprise to the Board. They had the feeling they should have been told about the whole matter earlier because it was known for some time by the president and the committee.

The president did as much as he was able to do. And in my view, not a bad job. They did as well as they could as volunteers. All three have jobs and spend their free time to do as much as they can for Amateur Radio. But they did not communicate good with the Board.

**W5YI:** We heard that the German Bundespost is now dealing with the International Amateur Radio Network rather than the IARU. Is that true?

**DJ6TJ:** No, of course not. I have heard that story before ...and there are some groups inside our country giving such information away also. About 75% of all licensed radio amateurs in Germany are members of DARC. And I would say about 90% of all active radio amateurs are members of DARC. The Bundespost has no interest in talking to anyone except the International Amateur Radio Union. A small active group consisting of 7 or 8 people have been very noisy.

**W5YI:** What is the next step. What is going to happen now?

**DJ6TJ:** The next step is we have written proposals from the DARC about the Amateur Radio regulations for the Bundespost. In my view they will be accepted and will be valid January 1st, 1993. You can be sure that it will happen.

**W5YI:** Are amateurs in Germany upset by all of this?

**DJ6TJ:** No. I would say about 20% [are] being noisy and being angry - not knowing what will happen. The Bundespost can't be so stupid as to give everything free and let the people do whatever they want [on the ham bands.]

**W5YI:** Then the Bundespost is just trying to get the DARC to accept the responsibility for Amateur Radio?

**DJ6TJ:** In my view, yes.

**W5YI:** Did you say the Bundespost is letting the DARC

write their own rules?

**DJ6TJ:** No. We are making a proposal with new rules and they will accept it or will change some wording or whatever and afterward these rules will be given out by the Deutsche Bundespost as the regulations for Amateur Radio. The only thing they want us to do is to do things which are very costly ...such as [license] examinations which you have with VECs and so on.

What happens here is the examinations are taken by the Deutsche Bundespost and only one VEC member from the DARC is joining such an examination. The Bundespost wants us to do the total job which means we have to take care of our examinations for all licenses. The only thing the Deutsche Bundespost wants to do is just to give somebody a call sign and not to do the job with the examinations.

**W5YI:** Will a testing fee be allowed for DARC's examining service?

**DJ6TJ:** Yes. Because they know the service is costing money. It is an internal question of the DARC as to what are we going to do. Will it be good enough to increase the membership fee or do we have to let people pay for examinations? It is something we have to calculate at that moment when we know what we have to do.

**W5YI:** Is the DARC concerned about handling the coming deregulation?

**DJ6TJ:** No, of course not. Because we know we are able to do it. We have about 1,300 local clubs in Germany and it is very easy to have VECs in those local clubs and to do the job.

**W5YI:** Your version of deregulation in Germany does not sound as serious as the rumors...

**DJ6TJ:** No. From the first moment I knew the background and had private information from the Bundespost. I was not worried at all. The government wants to save money. They will keep an eye on the rules and if we (the DARC) want a change in the rules we have to ask the Bundespost to accept and approve it. We may make proposals, but nothing more. The rules will always be more or less under government control.

The original Bundespost [deregulation] proposal is withdrawn meanwhile. With other words [it is] history. But this version caused a lot of nasty letters indeed! It caused more or less also the rumors inside the Board of Directors with the result to ask the chairmen to resign.

There has been a reformation of committees [change of thinking] in DARC. Some old fashioned committee chairmen resigned and undermined the DARC leadership by means of some members of the

Board of Directors. A lot of dirt was thrown around. Also some changes within the staff of HQ and some proposed changes as far as the editor of CQ-DL [their monthly journal] is concerned caused a disharmonization [dissension] between the Board and the Chairmen.

New regulations based nearly 100% on a DARC proposal will be discussed by [the] end of this month. [There is] No reason to worry. Germany is a CEPT country and bounded under the Radio Regulations, which means the BMPT has no chance to do what they want. They would be killed [censured] by other P&T authorities and the rest of the world.

As a summary, no big changes in our Amateur Radio regulations at all [other than] some duties will have to be done by the [DARC] Society and there may be a possible increase in license fees.

**W5YI:** Will you have your Amateur Radio examinations in place by January 1993?

**DJ6TJ:** In my view, within six months in 1993, examinations will go over to the Society.

**W5YI:** Who will handle radio wave monitoring, violations and enforcement?

**DJ6TJ:** The Deutsche Bundespost will continue ...they will not give it out of their hands.

## MORE ON THE AL GROSS, W8PAL INTERVIEW

We got quite a reaction to the interview we did in the last issue with **Al Gross, W8PAL**. Most readers had not heard about how CB radio was actually an offshoot of World War II technology developed by a ham operator for secret air-to-ground communications behind enemy lines. W8PAL's small hand-held radio with its new-fangled printed circuits were the forerunner of all of today's radios and integrated circuits.

We received a letter from the ARRL's **Dave Sumner, K1ZZ**, saying he was quite interested in the interview with Al Gross. "Al certainly tells an entertaining story. However, I was skeptical of his claim to have been 'kicked out' of ARRL because in my 21 years on the staff I'd never heard of that having happened. Then, as now, the involuntary termination of membership would have required an action of the Board of Directors, for good cause shown and after an opportunity to be heard. That's right in the Articles of Association -- in effect, the Constitution of the League.

"I went through the Secretary's journal from May 1958 to May 1959 and could find no trace of such an action having been taken or even contemplated. Indeed, since he and the League apparently were on the same side of the argument -- opposing the

introduction of 27-MHz CB -- it's difficult to imagine what the supposed provocation for such an action might have been.

"While I cannot attest to it personally -- I was nine years old at the time -- I am forced to conclude that what Al describes simply could not have happened. If he can offer any evidence to contradict me I would love to see it, for it would make a curious addition to League history."

I contacted Al Gross/W8PAL on his return from lecturing a seminar entitled: *'Mobile and Personal Radio Communications: A Historical Review of the Transition from Military to Commercial'* at Virginia Polytechnic Institute's Bradley Dept. of Electrical Engineering on October 30.

Gross again told me that, "Yes," his ARRL membership was indeed cancelled and his remaining dues were not refunded. This was done because he developed 460-MHz Citizen's Band radio which eventually led to 27-MHz CB radio - and the loss of the 11-meter ham band. He could not remember who contacted him about his membership termination. He did say, however, that perhaps he still had the information in his archives. W8PAL apparently holds no grudges against the ARRL, however, and complimented the League for their recent efforts in Spain at WARC-92.

All Gross has donated his extensive personal radio archives "...which take up an entire building" to Virginia Polytech - the only state university that has a personal radio curriculum. They have conferred an honorary Doctor of Science on him for his pioneering development of the walkie-talkie, pocket-pager, wrist radio and the anti-aircraft proximity fuse.

On November 4th, Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Executive VP sent the following letter to W8PAL:

"Dear Al: I was intrigued by Fred Maia's story about you in the most recent W5YI Report, and looked into the Leagues archives of the late '50s to see what I could come up with regarding the problem with your ARRL membership that you described to Fred.

"At the time, as now, membership could not be terminated involuntarily except by action of the Board of Directors and only for good cause shown after an opportunity to be heard. I couldn't find any record of such actions having been taken. This leads me to wonder whether your perception that you were 'kicked out' might have grown out of a misunderstanding between individuals, rather than from an action of the organization.

"In any event, regardless of what may have happened at the time, I want you to know that today you're welcome as a member, and we would value your support." signed: David Sumner, K1ZZ.